The motion was put to the vote and lost.

With the permission of the President, the Perapanad Rajah proposed the following amendments, but withdrew them after a short discussion. He said :—

"Gentlemen,

"I arrived at Trivandrum only on last sunday. After receipt of the Bills to be considered on this day I had hardly time to study the Bills and send the amendments I mean to propose, to the Secretary to this Council to reach him in time for the purpose of sending copies of them to my brother members of this Council. If the President shall decide that the few amendments I have to propose be considered at this meeting I shall propose them. In Mr. Muthunayagom Pillay's 1st amendment to the Registration Bill I prefer the word 'Indian' to that of 'Native.' Europeans call us Natives. Why should we do so. People in this country do not like to be called Natives.

"I would propose to substitute 16 in the place of 18 in Section 3 as under Hindu Law minority ceases at that age. True under the British Indian Majority Act, "every person domiciled in British India shall be deemed to have attained his majority when he shall have completed his age of eighteen and not before." The framers of that Act do not seem to have been aware that in India or in tropical climates the faculties attain their full development earlier than in colder regions. So long as we have no Majority Act we should entirely be guided by Hindu Law in all questions of proper age to manage one's own affairs. The distinction made between authorities to adopt and other documents, it seems to me, is indefensible in principle.

"The time allowed in Section 14 for the registration of documents executed in British India or Ceylon seems too short. A document relating to property in Travancore was, let us suppose, executed at Simla or at some place further north. 90 days would be hardly enough to enable the executants to appear before the Travancore Registrars or Sub-Registrars in person if they chose to do so.

"I hope I will be permitted to make a few observations regarding this Bill in general. I am not aware if there was any such strong necessity as to justify amending the Registration law now in force to the extent it has been done. With your permission I will quote only a few lines from my memorandum on this Bill I wrote before my appointment as a member of this council. "The Bill under discussion has been framed entirely on the lines of British Indian Registration Act now in force. We should not lose sight of the fact that Travancore is only equal in extent to a third class Collectorate in British India. For instance, Malabar which is only a second class Collectorate has an area of 6,000 square miles whereas the State of Travancore has an area only of 4,700 square miles. When we legislate for Travancore we should always bear in mind that we enact laws for a small area. Having this and the fact that the more a machinery is simple, the greater is its effectiveness and the facility to work with, in mind, the Registration Regulation now in force in Travancore has been framed. Want of symmetry in the corresponding relation between parts makes the whole look awkward. Put a giant's dress upon a little baby. What can look more awkward? The Huzur Registrar stands in the place of a Registrar in a British Collectorate. If a Registrar in a British Collectorate can effectually exercise a general superintendence over all the Sub-Registrars under him, why should not the Huzur Registrar with an assistant do the same here over a number of Registrars."

Resolved that the Bill as amended be read again on a future day of which previous notice shall be given.

DEPARTMENTAL ENQUIRIES BILL.

Resolved that the further consideration of the Bill be adjourned to the next ordinary meeting.

The business of the meeting being over, Mr. Bensley thanked the President for the very kind manner in which he welcomed the new members.

SHUNGRASOOBYER,
President.

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